

Information about Anti-D Immunoglobulin Injection

We have tested your blood today and found that you have been identified as having a Rhesus *negative* blood group.

What does this mean?

This means you do not have D-antigen on your red blood cells but this is not a problem. Around 16 in every 100 people are the same as you and it is only really important when a person needs a blood transfusion, or is pregnant.

In pregnancy the foetus could have the rhesus *positive* blood group and some problems, such as bleeding, a miscarriage, or a pregnancy outside the womb (called an ectopic pregnancy) could cause the Rh positive blood to mix with yours. Your body will treat the 'new blood' as foreign. Your immune system will then make a substance called Anti-D that will stay in your system more or less permanently.

This could be potentially harmful to any pregnancies you have in the future,

Is there anything you can do to stop problems in my future pregnancies?

Yes, we would like to give you something to stop your body reacting in the way described above. The treatment is a specially processed blood-derived product that can only be given by injection.

Giving you this injection will 'mop up' the D-antigen from the pregnancy before your body has chance to react to it. Any excess medicine will then disappear from your body over a period of time.

When do I need the injection?

- Any bleeding in pregnancy at 12 weeks or more. If you continue to bleed after this time, you will need further injections every six weeks
- Surgical treatments in pregnancy, including ectopic surgery
- Medical treatments in pregnancy at 10 weeks or more
- A blow to the abdomen at 12 week or more

It is your decision whether or not to have this injection. However, it is strongly recommended that you do, especially if you think you might have children in the future. Anti-D injections have been in use for over 40 years and there are no known serious side effects. At worst some women could experience short-term rashes or flu-like symptoms, but these are rare.

Once I have my injection, do I need any further checks?

You will be tested again in every future pregnancy, and may need the injection every time you go through a labour, miscarriage or termination. If you are absolutely positive the father of your baby is Rh negative as well (for example he is a blood donor and has a card stating his blood group) then you would not need to have the Anti-D injection.

Contact Details:

<p>The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU), Treatment Centre, Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdon, PE29 6NT</p> <p>Opening days may vary</p>	<p>The Emergency Gynaecology Assessment Unit (EGAU), Women's Health Outpatients, Bretton Gate, Peterborough (City Hospital), PE3 9GZ</p> <p>Open: Weekdays 0800-1800 Weekend and bank holidays 0800-1200</p>
<p>Central triage line for EPU and EGAU: 01733 673758 (voicemail will cut in when the line is engaged – <u>please leave a message for a call back.</u></p> <p>www.womenshealthpeterborough.co.uk</p>	
<p>For emergencies only, out of these hours, please attend the Emergency Department</p>	